

**State of California
Department of Parks and Recreation**

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Sunset Ridge Acquisition and Lease

LOCATION: City of Newport Beach

COUNTY: Orange County

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT:

Acquisition of 15.05 acres, commonly referred to as "Sunset Ridge," adjacent to Superior Avenue and the Pacific Coast Highway in Newport Beach, through a Transfer of Jurisdiction from Caltrans pursuant to Senate Bill 124. Concurrent with the acquisition, execute a lease of the 15.05 acres to the City of Newport Beach for use as a public park. In accordance with SB 124, transfer of the property is contingent on the execution of an agreement between DPR and the City of Newport Beach that requires the city to perform all of the responsibilities related to, and to assume the liability for, the construction, operation, and maintenance of the park and its improvements.

Any change in, or development of, a management plan that would result in or contribute to the alteration of the natural conditions of the site or cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any historic or archaeological resource will not occur without re-evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Proposed activities within the leased boundaries will be subject to project-specific CEQA review prior to the start of any work.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Orange Coast District

EXEMPT STATUS:

☒ Categorical Exemption Class: 16 Section: 15316

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of a transfer of land ownership and lease of the land in order to establish a stand-alone park unit where the land is in a natural condition and the management plan for the park has not been prepared.

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**Kathy Amann, Acting Deputy Director
Acquisition and Development Division**

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